

Grace Church of Central Point

100 Oak Street

A praying, Christ-centered church that loves Jesus!



GRACE NOTES

VISION 2025: Planting God's Word in our hearts

November 2025

From the Pastor's Desk...

Praise and Thanksgiving

This month I'd like us to take a few minutes to think about "praise" and "thanksgiving." Now, the *thanksgiving* I'm talking about is not the day we celebrate, feasting on turkey or ham. No, I'm thinking of the word "thanksgiving" which means "to give thanks." It seems sometimes we *thank* when we mean to *praise* and vice versa. So, what exactly are *praise* and *thanksgiving*? How are they the same and how are they different?

Praise is giving God the glory for Who He is, for His attributes, for the privilege extended to allow each of us to lift up His holy name. Take a moment right now to look up Psalm 150 in your Bible. Read it slowly, filtering what you read against the description just shared of what *praise* is. In *praise* we lift up God's goodness, knowledge, power, wisdom, mercy, grace, holiness, love, greatness and patience. When we *praise* we are focused totally on God as He stands alone. *Praise* is not thanking God for anything, just acknowledging Who He is in His greatness and power and glory and... well, you get the idea. If you really want to praise God joyfully, take time to write down all the attributes you can think of that make up who God is. This would include words that are maybe not as prevalent in our praise, but could be, such as *creative*, *decisive*, *selective* and *immutable(unchanging)*. When we take time to *praise* God, it's a good reminder to us of Who He is, and consequently who we are.

Thanksgiving on the other hand is thanking God, pure and simple. *Thanksgiving* is acknowledging what God has done, is doing, or will do. It is our opportunity to tell God what we are thankful for that He has provided to us. And remember, "every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change (James 1:17). It could be material blessings, physical blessings, spiritual blessings, or people that God has brought into our lives for a purpose. For all of these we need to give *thanks*. Again, I'll ask you to take a moment and read Psalm 136, and as you read it, focus on what it says God does, is doing, and has done.

Of course, it is not as cut and dried as it seems. *Praise* and *thanksgiving* really go together. *Praise* and *thanksgiving* please the heart of God. They are both necessary components of our prayer life. They express our faith, hope, love and gratitude.

They acknowledge His way is better than our way, always. In summary, *praise* is extolling God for Who He is and an expression of our love for Him and praise for His character. *Thanksgiving* is to thank God for what He has done and is an expression of our gratitude and our thanking Him for His actions. One last passage to read, Psalm 106:1-3; it's a psalm of *praise* and *thanksgiving*! Indeed, God deserves our *praise* and we have so very much from Him for which to be *thankful*!

ACTIVITIES AT GRACE

Sunday: Morning prayer	9:30 am
Sunday School	10:00 am
Worship Service	11:00 am
Tuesday: Women's Bible Study	10:00 am
Men's Bible Study	5:30 pm
Wednesday: Mid-week prayer meeting	6:30 pm
Thursday: Women's Bible Study	6:30 pm

COMING ACTIVITIES

December 7: Annual Elections/Budget meeting
December 14: Christmas Program
December 19: Christmas caroling
December 24: Christmas Eve Communion Service

STANDARD TIME HAS ARRIVED AGAIN



It's time to set your clock back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday evening, November 1.



Thanksgiving Potluck

Sunday, November 16th after the morning service. Please bring a side dish and a salad or dessert to share.



NOVEMBER 2025



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 *Sarah Bartlett
2 *Jim Hibbs	3 Bill Shelton	4 Election Day *Cleo Caswell	5 *Leisha Young	6 Amanda Sill	7 Marie Simmons	8 Pete Slade
9 Jessica Speece	10 *Melanie Glosser	11 Stephanie Speece	12 *Lana Morley	13 *Debbie Ashton	14 Pauline Stephens	15 *Joshua Petsche
16 Tony Vaccarino	17 *Bob McLean	18 Nicole Vaccarino	19 Ron Walch	20 Judi Walch	21 Melba Waters	22 Annita Wheeler
23 Ed Whetstone	24 Nancy Whetstone	25 *Isaiah Oliver	26 Matt Winchell	27 Thanksgiving Day Cathleen Winchell	28 Evie Collins	29 *Roberta Claudson *Terry Pruett
30 Helen Winchell						

Please pray for one another each day – those with a birthday are shown with an *



Psalm 107:1 says, "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever." Notice that it doesn't say, "Give thanks when things are going well." It says, "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good." God's goodness is constant, even when life is not.

